

# Resource Conserving Crop Rotation

## Conservation Stewardship Program Fact Sheet

May 2021

A resource conserving crop rotation is a cropping rotation that includes at least one resource conserving crop, reduces erosion, builds soil organic matter, improves soil fertility and tilth, interrupts pest cycles, and reduces depletion of soil moisture. The crop rotation shall include a minimum of two different crops in a minimum three-year rotation; a cover crop is considered a different crop for this purpose. The resource conserving crop rotation shall include at least one of the following resource conserving crops:

1. With at least one other crop in the rotation, include a perennial grass grown at least 2 years from time of planting;
2. With at least one other crop in the rotation, include a legume that is grown at least 2 years from time of planting;
3. With at least one other crop in the rotation, include a legume-grass mixture that is grown at least 2 years from time of planting;
4. With at least one other crop in the rotation, include a grass-forb or legume-grass-forb mixture, in which at least the grass component of the mixture is grown at least 2 years from time or planting; or,
5. With at least two other crops in the rotation, include a non-fragile (i.e., persistent) residue or high residue crop or a crop that efficiently uses soil moisture, reduces irrigation water needs, or is considered drought tolerant. Neither the crop residue nor the cover crop shall be harvested or grazed. This must be done each year that it is applicable, but a minimum of 2 out of 5 years.

Perennial Grasses	Annual Grasses	Perennial Legumes	Annual Legumes	Brassic/Forbs
<p><b>Cool Season</b></p> <p>Tall Fescue (endophyte -free or novel endophyte) Timothy Kentucky Bluegrass Orchardgrass Perennial Ryegrass Smooth Bromegrass</p> <p><b>Warm Season</b></p> <p>Switchgrass Eastern Gamagrass Big Bluestem Indiangrass Little Bluestem</p>	<p><b>Cool Season</b></p> <p>Annual Ryegrass <u>1/</u> Cereal Rye <u>1/</u> Barley <u>1/</u> Oats Wheat <u>1/</u> Triticale <u>1/</u></p> <p><b>Warm Season</b></p> <p>Grain Corn <u>1/</u> Grain Sorghum <u>1/</u>, <u>2/</u> Sorghum-Sudangrass <u>1/</u>, <u>2/</u> Sudangrass <u>2/</u> Foxtail Millet Pearl Millet <u>2/</u> Teff <u>2/</u></p>	<p><b>Cool Season</b></p> <p>Red Clover Ladino Clover Alfalfa <u>2/</u> Birdsfoot Trefoil</p>	<p><b>Cool Season</b></p> <p>Crimson Clover Austrian Winter Pea Hairy Vetch Common Vetch</p> <p><b>Warm Season</b></p> <p>Berseem Clover Soybeans <u>2/</u> Cowpea <u>2/</u> Sunn Hemp</p>	<p><b>Cool Season</b></p> <p>Forage Radish Rapeseed/ Canola Turnip Kale</p> <p><b>Warm Season</b></p> <p>Buckwheat Sunflower <u>2/</u></p>

Notes:

1/ Crop that has persistent residue and/or produces high amounts of residue.

2/ Crop that efficiently uses soil moisture, reduces irrigation water needs, or is considered drought tolerant.

